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The JFK Affair . . .

The story of the century? Here we go again? Sneed hears **James E. Files**, 52, who is being held in protective custody at Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet, (Illinois) claims he was one of two people who shot and killed President **John F. Kennedy.**

■ Files reportedly claims **Lee Harvey Oswald** was a patsy.

■ "It's the story of the century," said **Bob Vernon**, an independent TV producer from Houston, who told Sneed he videotaped a "confession" interview with Files on March 22 at Stateville. Vernon claims Files confessed he was one of two men who fired the last two shots at Kennedy. The other shooter was mobster **Charles Nicoletti**, who was murdered years ago, he says.

■ **Nic Howell**, a spokesman for the Department of Corrections, verified that Vernon was granted permission to interview Files . . . and that Files has been in voluntary protective custody since May, 5, 1992. "But I have no opinion one way or the other on what he says about the Kennedy assassination," Howell said. "That doesn't fall within our purview."

■ Vernon claims Files just wanted to tell the truth. "He's asked for nothing. Is getting nothing. He just wants to clear his conscience. So he let me tape him," said Vernon. "He wanted to leave his story behind for history. It's a one hour and 16 minute interview."

■ So what gives? Files, who has been serving a 50-year sentence for the 1991 attempted murders of two police officers from Round Lake Beach, has retained legendary attorney **Julius Lucius Echeles**, who is awaiting word from the Illinois Appellate Court on a post-conviction petition.

■ Sneed's query: So howcum Files wants to confess to a crime of murder, a charge that has no statute of limitations, that was committed in the state of Texas, which has the death penalty?

■ Vernon's reply: "It's really not admissible in court."

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